



EPA Statement Regarding Letter from NYSDEC 8/22/16

EPA welcomes New York State's continued involvement in the Hudson River PCB cleanup and shares the state's commitment to cleaning up the Hudson River. EPA has worked closely with the state throughout this process, including the current open and transparent five-year review. EPA will review and respond to the state's letter.

Background:

- EPA has previously addressed in its [March 2016 White Paper](#) and an [accompanying fact sheet](#) some of the issues raised in the NYSDEC letter.
- The State of New York has the opportunity to get more dredging if they wish to pursue dredging the Champlain Canal.
- As is widely understood, it is not possible for the fish to recover immediately after the conclusion of dredging – that recovery will take decades. The cleanup plan with which the NYSDEC concurred has therefore always relied on the continuation of fish advisories during this extended recovery period.
- [On March 29, 2016](#), the EPA announced the beginning of a robust, open and transparent process for the second of what will be a series of reviews, conducted every five years, of the Hudson dredging project. This process is ongoing.
 - EPA convened a Five-Year Review Team in spring 2016 which meets monthly and includes representatives from NYSDEC, NYSDOH, the Federal Trustees and members of the Community Advisory Group. The process has also already included a public workshop for the Community Advisory Group and the general public in May 2016, in which the NYSDEC participated. Another public workshop is being scheduled for October. The state, environmental groups, and the general public have been extensively consulted on elements of the review.
- This Five Year Review will consider whether currently available data are consistent with estimates about eventual fish recovery made in connection with the 2002 selection of the remedy, with which NYSDEC concurred.